REMARKS

The final Office Action of January 27, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiners comments and suggestions. It is believed the amendments above and remarks below address the Examiner's concerns. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss this application if such discussion may help to advance the prosecution of this case.

In addition, amendments were made to the claim to clarify the invention in response to the 112 rejections and thus should not raise new issues requiring additional searching.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance.

In regard to Figure 6, the position of the "nut retainer 283" (not "nut retaining apparatus 283") is shown in the drawings. The "nut retainer 283" is being pointed to – note the use of the arrow head at the end of the line segment. In drafting, an arrow head means that the item is being pointed to. Since the arrow head is within the nut member, it is not being used to point to the nut member. (Nut member is identified by 282 and the line segment drawn to the nut member.) On the other hand, line segments are used to identify parts of the "nut retainer 283" specifically side surface retainer 283a and end surface retainer 283b. The retainer is part of the body and is adjacent to the nut member such that it prevents the nut member from moving (rotating) when attaching the bolt. That is, side surface retainer 283a prevents rotation. End surface retainer 283b prevents the nut member from moving obliquely upward.

Note also the use of arrows, for example, for bolt 253, fixing pin 251, arm 24, connection body 28, and nut retaining apparatus N. These items are being pointed to. It is respectfully submitted that "nut retainer 283" is properly identified and withdrawal of the objections over the drawings and disclosure is requested.

Claims 1-22 stand rejected as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify the claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 15-21 stand rejected as indefinite. Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a nut member" as suggested. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The claims require a nut holder supporting a nut member in an inclined direction tangent to the end surface of the body. The present claims also require a nut retainer which will hold the nut when the bolt is attached to the nut member. When the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member moves obliquely upward and abuts against the nut retainer in the predetermined inclined direction. Attention is drawn to paragraph 33 of the specification.

> When the bolt 253 is fastened to the nut retaining apparatus N to threadedly engaging the nut 282 and the bolt 253 with each other, the nut 282 *moves obliquely upward and abuts against the nut retainer* 283. More specifically, the nut 282 abuts against a side surface retainer 283a to prohibit the nut 282 from rotating, the nut 282 abuts against an end surface retainer 283b to prohibit the nut 282 from moving obliquely upward, and the bolt 253 and the nut 282 are reliably threadedly engaged with each other. At that time, the nut 282 moved obliquely upward from a position where the nut 282 was supported by the nut holder 281, and the nut 282 and the nut holder 281 do not come into contact with each other. Thus, *a fastening force when the bolt 253 is fastened is applied only to the connection body 28, and the fastening force is not applied to the resin nut holder 281*. Even if a long bolt 253 is used, a tip end of the bolt 253 passes through the bolt insertion hole 281d formed in the nut holder 281 such that the tip end which passes through the nut 282 does not come into contact with the nut holder 281 and thus, the nut holder 281 does not interfere with the bolt 253. (Emphasis added)

Thus, once a bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body and the fastening force is applied only to the body, not to the nut holder. Thus, the nut member is securely fastened in a predetermined inclined position.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, 15-16, 19-20 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Schaaf (U.S. Patent 2,820,499.) Claims 7, 11, and 21 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Schaaf.

Schaaf describes a floating, swiveling anchor nut. The anchor nut is attached to an outer surface of the body via retainer 25. Retainer 25 does not securely hold the nut member in a predetermined inclined position. Instead, retainer 25 allows nut member 10 to rotate or swivel around. The nut retaining apparatus of the instant claims does not allow the nut member to rotate or swivel but instead holds the nut member securely in place in a *predetermined inclined position.*

Moreover, in Schaaf, the nut member is connected *indirectly* to the body. Thus, when the bolt is fastened, the fastening force of the bolt engaging to the nut is applied to mounting plate 26. On the other hand, with the present invention, once the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body and a fastening force is applied only to the body, not to the nut holder.

Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Eaton (U.S. Patent 192,620).

Eaton describes a nut lock having a washer A and a locking dog B that pivots into place against the washer to hold a nut in a locked position. The nut holder supports the nut in an inclined direction tangent to the end surface of the body. The nut lock of Eaton does not hold a nut member securely in an inclined position as required by the instant claim.

The nut lock of Eaton is not mounted on the body. Instead the nut lock comprises a washer (A) that the bolt is inserted through. The nut is put into place and the locking dog is pivoted against the washer to lock the nut into place (to prevent the nut from turning on its axis.) Thus in Eaton, the nut member is connected indirectly to the body. With such a configuration, a fastening force of the bolt engaging to the nut is applied to the washer-plate A when the bolt is fastened. As previously noted, with the present invention, once the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body and a fastening force is applied only to the body, not to the nut holder.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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